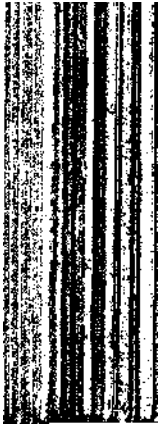


rdinary scenes when firms in the highest credit came to announce and prepare for their impending suspension; questions, too, where great amounts were at stake; the information, too, of companies, &c., &c. It gave me great facility with my pen and no inconsiderable knowledge of human nature.

Unfortunately, if indeed I ought to use the word, the rest of my life was not in harmony with this practice and business. I passed my evenings at home, alone, and always in deep study. This developed at last different feelings and views to those which I had willingly but too quickly adopted when I was little more than seventeen. I became nervous and restless, and before I was twenty I was obliged to terminate the dream of my father and his friend. Nothing could satisfy me but travel. My father then made a feeble effort for Oxford, but the hour of adventure had arrived. I was unmanageable. Let me say one word about the lady, he said to me one day, and before I had shown any indication of my waywardness, 'You have too much genius for Frederick's Place: it will never do.'

We were good friends. She married a Devonshire gentleman and was the mother of two general officers, of whom we have heard a good deal of late [Zulu War, 1879], and whom employed as a Minister! Such is life!



H¹

The 'two years and more' in Frederick's Place really retched out to three. 'Most assiduous in his attention * business and showing great ability in the transaction : it' was the impression he left on the mind of one of ie partners; though all the evidence is not equally vourable, and Mr. Maples's recollections may have ken a colour from. Disraeli's subsequent fame. In iG formal sense his education no doubt had suffered, id we may be inclined to echo his own regret that he issed what Oxford could have given him — not merely te scholastic training, but the other gifts of even higher due which she bestows upon the aspirant to a public ireer. But 'nature is more powerful than education'; id this maxim, which was given to Contarini Fleming >r his guidance, was signally verified in the case of enjamin Disraeli. Nor in those evenings of deep ¹ Fronde's *Lord Beaconsfield*, p. 22.

VOL. I — D